Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 DODE-00 FMC-04 CG-00 COA-02 DLOS-06 PM-07

NSC-10 SS-20 SPC-03 L-03 OMB-01 SCI-06 CEQ-02 SCEM-02

TRSE-00 INT-08 FPC-01 AGR-20 LAB-06 SIL-01 AF-10

EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 /197 R

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P 701614Z DEC 73
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 247816

E.O. 11652: N

TAGS: ETRN, ENRG, BR, PE

SUBJECT: INCREASED PRICES FOR BUNKER FUELS

REF: STATE 244003

1. PRUDENTIAL-GRACE LINES SAN FRANCISCO REPORTS THAT MAJOR PRICE DIFFERENCES EXIST IN BRAZIL AND PERU FOR BUNKERS DELIVERED TO US AND OTHER FOREIGN-FLAG VESSELS WHEN COMPARED WITH THE PRICES CHARGED TO THE NATIONAL-FLAG CARRIERS. THE FIGURES QUOTED ARE AS FOLLOWS:

I. PETROBRAS: (AS OF DEC 13) LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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- (A) BRAZILIAN-FLAG 9.07 DOLLARS
- (B) FOREIGN-FLAG (US) 15.14 DOLLARS

DIFFERENCE IS 6.07 DOLLARS - 66.92 PERCENT

- II. PETRO-PERU (AS OF DEC 17)
 - (A) PERUVIAN-FLAG 2.59 DOLLARS
 - (B) FOREIGN-FLAG (US) 12.50 DOLLARS

DIFFERENCE IS 9.91 DOLLARS - 382.63 PERCENT

III. PETRO-PERU (AS OF DEC 18)

(A) PERUVIAN-FLAG - 2.59 DOLLARS (B) FOREIGN-FLAG (US) - 17.50 DOLLARS PLUS .50 BARGING

DIFFERENCE IS 14.91 DOLLARS - 575.67 PERCENT

- 2. PRUGRACE INDICATES THAT THESE PRICES WILL MAKE RATES UNDER WHICH US VESSELS CURRENTLY OPERATING NON-COMPENSATORY. PRICE DIFFERENTIAL OBVIOUSLY PRODUCES COMPETITIVE COST ADVANTAGE FOR BRAZILIAN AND PERUVIAN-FLAG SHIPS. PERUVIAN AND BRAZILIAN VESSELS RECEIVE BUNKERS AT US WEST COAST AT SAME REPEAT SAME PRICE AS US-FLAG VESSELS.
- 3. AS NOTED REFTEL A, US BUNKER ALLOCATION POLICY NON-DISCRIMINATORY VIS A VIS FLAG OF REGISTRY. THE FEO (FEDERAL ENERGY OFFICE) WILL HAVE THE POWER TO RE NEW THIS NON-DISCRIMINATORY POLICY ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS SO AS TO RETALIATE AGAINST THOSE NATIONS WHICH DISCRIMINATE AGAINST VESSELS PRIMARILY ENGAGED IN THE FOREIGN TRADE OF THE US. ADDITIONALLY, ALREADY EXISTING POWER VESTED IN THE FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION (FMC) UNDER SECTION 19 OF THE MERCHANT MARINE ACT OF 1920 PERMITS THAT AGENCY TO TAKE RETALIATORY ACTION AGAINST THE VESSELS OR TRDE OF THAT NATION WHICH DISCRIMINATES AGAINST VESSELS ENGAGED IN THE FOREIGN TRADE OF THE US. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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- 4. AS NOTED IN PREVIOUS TELS, DISCRIMINATION ABROAD, IF UNCHECKED CAN LEAD TO POSSIBLE RETALIATION ALSO BY LABOR UNIONS AND OIL COMPANIES.
- 5. ADDRESSEES ARE THEREFORE REQUESTED TO IMMEDIATELY VERIFY THE CLAIMS MADE IN PARA 1 BY PRUGRACE AND IF TRUE,

OBTAIN FROM APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT AND/OR OIL COMPANY OFFICIALS THE RATIONALE BEHIND SUCH A PRICE STRUCTURE. REFERENCE TO EXISTING AND PLANNED RETALIATORY REGULATIONS NOTED ABOVE MAY BE MADE. IT MAY ALSO BE POINTED OUT THAT THE MAJOR MARITIME NATIONS, SUCH AS UK, NORDICS, JAPAN, USSR AND OTHERS (INCLUDING INDIA) HAVE INDICATED THAT THEY WILL FOLLOW NON-DISCRIMINATORY BUNKER ALLOCATION POLICY. RUSH

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TAGS: ENRG, ETRN, BR, PE, US, PRUDENTIAL-GRACE LINES

To: LIMA RIO DE JANEIRO INFO BRASILIA

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